

Islam

(Part 2 of 2)

The first of five pillars of Islam's faith is known as the *shahadah* (the act of bearing witness). The *shahadah* states that one must openly proclaim that there is no God but Allah and that Muhammad is the messenger of Allah. Supposedly, the angel Gabriel visited Muhammad and a companion (Umar; second caliph) and quizzed them over the religion of Islam. Muhammad later explains to Umar that this event happened for his benefit that he may learn the five pillars of Islam and the six pillars of faith. The Quran explains how that one may come to have the faith of the *shahadah* in three steps that lead to "certainty."

The first step in gaining a faith in Allah and his messenger Muhammad is to consider the physical universe and know that it could not just accidentally happen. A creator was responsible for said creation. When one acknowledges that Allah must have created the heavens and the earth one has obtained "knowledge of certainty" (Quran 102:5). The second phase of faith is termed the "eye of certainty" (Quran 102:7). One obtains faith in Allah and Muhammad by being enlightened by the Quran (Quran 39:22). Lastly, one obtains a "certain" faith in Allah and his prophet when one obtains the "truth of certainty" (Quran 69:51). Said faith is evidenced by one's obedience to the law of Islam (*shariah*).

There are many aspects in Islam that sound familiar to the judicious Bible student. The true Christian obtains faith by viewing the physical universe (Rom. 1:19ff) and hearing the Word of God preached (Rom. 10:17). One evidences a true faith in Jehovah God by living in obedience to His words (cf. Heb. 1:1ff). Likewise there are other similarities in the religion yet that is all they are, similarities. Things that are similar and not exactly alike. The Quran is a book that takes many Bible principles and puts its own spin on them. Consider the following comparisons between the Bible and the Quran.

The Quran's view of divine inspiration or Word of God is opposed to the New Testament. The Quran claims that the angel Gabriel told a man named Muhammad to "recite" all that he said to him. This "reciting" came to be known as the Quran that multitudes now believe supersedes the Bible in divine authority (cf. Quran 10:37; 56:77ff). Interestingly, the apostle Paul instructed the Galatians that even if an angel were to tell them doctrine that opposed what he and the other apostles had taught that they were to be cursed (cf. Gal. 1:6ff). Secondly, the Quran has a view of Jesus Christ that opposes the New Testament. The Quran claims that Jesus does not represent deity (Quran 5:17). Furthermore, the Quran denies that Jesus was crucified (Quran 4:157-158) and that He is the Son of God (Quran 112:1). The Quran explains that Jesus was a created being like Adam (Quran 3:55-58) and that He was simply a prophet and apostle (Quran 4:171; 6:90ff; 9:130; 19:135).

The Quran's explanation of salvation is through faith in Allah, performing the five pillars of Islam, and believing the six pillars of faith from the *hadith* of Gabriel. Once one believes, he (she) becomes a member of the *umma* (universal Muslim community). The expansion of the *umma* occurs not only through preaching but through waging physical war to make the infidel confess that Allah is the one true God (cf. Quran 8:40, 66; 9:12-14, 29, 36, 111, 123; 48:17 etc.). Though not all practicing Muslims believe this should occur it is none the less in their book of faith.

Once converts are made and added to the *umma* it is to be governed by the *shariah* (divine revelation; i.e., the Quran and *hadiths*) and *fiqh* (human reason) (cf. Quran 3:159). Religion and politics work side by side in the Muslim community (*umma*). If one breaks the *shariah*, he or she

is subject to corporal punishment (i.e., beatings and removal of limbs) (cf. Quran 24:2; 4:34; 5:34 etc.).

We could discuss many other differences between the Bible and the Quran; however, these should suffice to inform the reader that this religion is false and affronts the true Word of Jehovah God. The Bible explains that Jesus is deity (Jn. 1:1 etc.), He is the Son of God (Matt. 17:5), and that He was crucified on the cross so that man may have the forgiveness of sins (Jn. 19). Jesus was not created but is rather eternal (cf. Heb. 7:3). Furthermore, the Bible explains that salvation is through Christ alone (Jn. 14:6; Acts 4:12). The Bible explains the kingdom of God to be spiritual rather than carnal (Rom. 14:17). Christians are thereby instructed to submit to existing governing authorities rather than overthrowing and establishing a theocracy (cf. Rom. 13:1ff). What need is there today for the Quran (II Tim. 3:16-17)? The Bible tells us that such a book is rather accursed and thereby will cause men's souls to be lost (Gal. 1:6ff). Beware of Islam, it does not represent truth dear friend.